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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE



SHERBORNE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT

R E P O R T.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, TO THE SHERBORNE
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR 1925.



I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA (acres).....	37,488
POPULATION (Census 1921, and estimated 1925).....	5446 - 5480
Number of inhabited houses (1921).....	909
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)....	912
Rateable Value.....	£.
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£.192

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births (Legitimate.....	79	43	36	
(Illegitimate.....	1	1	-	
	80	44	36	Birth rate 14.6
Deaths.....	42	19	23	Death rate 7.66
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth.....				from sepsis..... Nil. from other causes..... Nil.
Death of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births.....				37.5
Legitimate.....	2.	Illegitimate.....	1.	Total.... 3.
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....				Nil.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).....				1.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....				Nil.



3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria.....	Two	Two	Nil
Scarlet Fever.....	One	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia.....	Two	Nil	Two
<u>Other diseases generally notifiable (specify disease)</u>			
Erysipelas.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	Nil	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-periods (Years)	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Non-Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.....								
1.....								
5.....								
10.....						I		
15.....								
20.....								
25.....	I	I	I					
35.....					I			
45.....							I	I
55.....	I							
65 and upwards...								
Totals	2.	I.	I.	Nil.	I.	I.	I.	I.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Area is mainly agriculture. There are situated within the district 174 farms or holdings concerned in the supply of milk. This milk is mainly sent to milk factories - only about 25% of the milk being sold as milk. About 500 people are thus employed in dairies.

Gloving is carried on in the district, many of the inhabitants doing a certain amount of work in their own homes, beyond those attending factories.

There are no other factories in the Rural District.

There is only one large village in the district - all the others being quite small.

There is no particular influence on the public health of any of the occupations of its inhabitants.

THE AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

318 people were granted Poor Law Relief during the year. The Sherborne Hospital provides all the medical relief that is necessary; its activities being mainly surgical, with a small percentage of such serious medical cases in which more specialised forms of treatment are granted which cannot either conveniently or satisfactorily be used in the patients' own homes. The hospital is popular, and little persuasion is necessary to persuade patients to avail themselves of it.

The one outstanding disease, which is more prevalent than usual, is Rheumatism in its various forms.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. TUBERCULOSIS.

The provision and treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council. Cases of surgical Tuberculosis are treated under assistance of the County Council in the Sherborne Hospital. The treatment provided is ample and satisfactory.

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2. MATERNITY.

There is at the present date no provision in any hospital for Maternity Cases. However, the Yeatman Hospital has recently reconsidered the matter, and is now about to build a special Maternity Ward to its hospital, and funds are being found for this purpose. It would appear likely that building will shortly be started, and that accommodation for four to five cases will be available during the next year.

3. CHILDREN.

There is a special ward in the Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne, for children, and children are received in that hospital both as in and out patients. Treatment is generally approved of by parents, and children are sent both by local practitioners and School Health Officers.

4. FEVER.

By arrangement with the Sherborne Urban District Council, any case of Fever recommended for admission is taken by that Council into its hospital at an agreed rate. The cases are very promptly removed. The treatment received is satisfactory, and this arrangement has resulted in nearly every epidemic lately being promptly stamped out.

5. SMALLPOX.

In conjunction with the Urban District Council, a scheme is ready for dealing with Smallpox if it occurs in the District.

6. OTHER.

The Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne, receives every type of case except those of infectious disease. There are thirty beds. It is well built and comfortable; has sufficient staff, and its equipment is up to date. It proves at present sufficient for the needs of the district. The Hospital itself is supported partly by voluntary funds, and by fees paid by the patients themselves according to their means. No suitable case has ever been refused

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admission, and being situated in the centre of the district, is easy of access. The County and the Rural Council are subscribers to its funds. Recently a league, to which all working-class families can belong at a small weekly rate, has been started. This league is likely to become prosperous, and undertakes to pay hospital charges for the maintenance for any of its members admitted to hospital. The staff of the hospital give their services gratuitously to all members of this league. This arrangement will prove a great boon to the working classes, relieving them of any anxiety as to their ability to pay for their maintenance, should they be ill and admitted to hospital.

There is no special Institutional provisions for unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children, but the necessities of all these classes are treated at the Sherborne Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious diseases the Urban District Council provides an Ambulance from the Infectious Disease Hospital.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases, the local branch of the Red Cross Society maintains an Ambulance. This can be promptly obtained for the use of accident cases, and the Rural Council District pays for the use of it when it is satisfied it should be provided gratis.

CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are no Clinics and Treatment Centres in the District.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are one part-time Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector. The Sanitary Inspector also performs the duty of Meat Inspector under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations Order of 1924.

There are no Health Officers or special nurses employed by the Authority.

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PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The parishes are divided into groups, all of which have a parish nurse provided on contributory schemes from the groups themselves. No professional nursing is provided for by the County Council or the Rural District Council. These nurses work hard in some cases, covering considerable distances, and are a great help and comfort to the villages which they attend. No funds are provided from either the County Council or the Rural District Council in aid of these nurses.

MIDWIVES.

There are five midwives practising in the District. They appear to be well trained and cleanly in their work, and are able to obtain such assistance as they need from local practitioners.

It should be again emphasized that provision of maternity beds in the hospital is an urgent necessity in the District, and undoubtedly lives have been lost in the past owing to undesirable surroundings or difficulties in efficient treatment, which could have been saved with better surroundings, facilities and more help.

CHEMICAL WORK.

The County Council undertakes such Chemical Work as is done, and attached to this report is the result of food examinations.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

No special byelaws or local regulations relating to public health are enforced in the District, except Building Byelaws.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations Order of 1924 is being carried out. During the past year three whole carcasses and a small number of other parts of animals have been destroyed under this order. Very little slaughtering goes on in the District.

Other than the use made of the local hospital and the Poor Law Infirmary, and the Poor Law Service generally, the work of the Local Authority is not related to any other agencies.

THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

The district is divided into groups, all of which have a health officer assigned to them. The health officer is responsible for the health of the district and is assisted by a committee of the district. The health officer is also responsible for the health of the district and is assisted by a committee of the district. The health officer is also responsible for the health of the district and is assisted by a committee of the district.

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WATER.

The shortage at Trent extending over a period of many years has been overcome, a new supply of good quality is provided and the whole of the village is satisfactorily supplied.

Portions of the villages of Chetnole and Yetminster are supplied by water from the Yeovil Corporation Waterworks Main; the supply is on the constant system, and is supplied only to those houses, numbering 36, with frontages on to the road along the line of pipes and the supply is by service pipes direct to the houses.

When any question of doubt arises in connection with a supply, the water is submitted to the Public Analyst for his report on the quality; one case during the year was found to be unsatisfactory and a new and independent supply was provided.

There are a few possibilities of contamination in the neighbourhood, the chief one being from contaminated surface water finding its way into wells. During the past year action on this account has been taken in four cases, when wells have been protected by parapets or other means.

RIVERS & STREAMS.

Considerable correspondence has passed during the year between the Council and the Wincanton Sanitary Authority with regard to the pollution of the stream at Goathill, previously mentioned in this report, caused by the discharge of effluent from the Milborne Port sewage works; during the latter part of the summer an attempt has been made to prevent this pollution and the result, if not quite satisfactory, is certainly an improvement; repairs to the sewer have been carried out, sludge and settling tanks cleaned and three lines of new trenches provided for settling purposes prior to the effluent passing to the filter beds.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Eight houses have been provided with new drains on the recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector, to replace existing defective drains; such works are open to inspection, are examined

WATER

The water supply is derived from the

reservoir, which is a very good one, and is

supplied to the village by a

system of pipes, which is

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during progress and tested on completion.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The approximate accommodation of the district is as follows:-

Water-closets	86
Pail or Earth	704
Privy-middens	68

The number of privy-middens is diminishing yearly, recommendations are frequently made to the Council for an Order to abate nuisances arising from such accommodation and for the substitution of water or earth closet accommodation.

SCAVENGING.

No scavenging arrangements are made by the Council; house refuse etc. being disposed of by the householders.

SANITARY INSPECTION of the AREA.

Twenty-three nuisances were investigated during the year, fourteen informal notices were served of which ten were complied with and four statutory notices were served, three of the latter were complied with during the year and the fourth has been carried forward.

In addition to the above, several minor nuisances were satisfactorily abated by consent.

126 inspections were made of Cowsheds in the district, 16 statutory notices were served and 14 complied with.

No action is taken with regard to Smoke Abatement. It is unnecessary.

There are no premises or occupations controlled by byelaws or regulations other than five bakehouses and four slaughterhouses.

There are no offensive trades, and no action has been needed with regard to houses let in lodgings.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

Two attempts have been made to build dwellinghouses on unsatisfactory sites. In both cases building was prohibited as the sites were too marshy to be satisfactory for such dwellinghouses as were proposed.

British Government has agreed to supply.

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The following information is being furnished to you for your information.

1. The situation in the Middle East is as follows:

2. The situation in the Middle East is as follows:

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SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition and water supply of the various schools are satisfactory, and no action has been necessary on this account during the year, and no action has been necessary to prevent the spread of infection; there having been only three cases of infection during the year.

HOUSING.

1. There are twenty-eight parishes within the area, some of these are very small and consist only of two or three farm homesteads with workmen's cottages attached. The district being agricultural, the majority of houses are farm labourers dwellings, and these generally are maintained in a fair standard of condition by the various estates in the district.

With the exception of a few parishes there appears to be very little shortage of dwellings, such shortage occurring in the parishes of Yetminster and Leigh, and a scheme has been prepared for the erection of six houses in the former and four in the latter; two also are included for Sandford Orcas. It was also decided to erect four at Trent, but provision has been made recently for five houses in this parish by the owner of its estate.

It is intended to build further houses should necessity arise.

According to statistics, the population appears to be decreasing.

2. OVERCROWDING.

There appears to be very little overcrowding within the district; two cases were reported during the year due to inadequate accommodation for large families, and more suitable accommodation was provided.

3. The general standard of houses is fair, principle defects are dampness of ground floors and walls, and in some cases old thatch roofs. In such cases the owners concerned are prevailed upon to execute repairs etc. to remedy the defects. Very little difficulty

is experienced in prevailing on the estate owners to effect improved conditions of the houses under their control.

The water supply throughout the district is on the whole very good; where several houses are grouped, the owners provide a supply which is by direct service or standpipes. More isolated houses are provided with wells.

No action has been found to be necessary in regard to unhealthy areas.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- | | |
|---|------|
| (a) Total | 7. |
| (b) State assistance under Housing Acts 1919-22 | |
| (1) By the L.A. | Nil. |
| (2) By other bodies or persons. | 2. |

1. Unfit Dwellinghouses.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| Inspection (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 46. |
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation 1910. | 15. |
| (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 3. |
| (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the proceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 7. |

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.
- | | |
|---|----|
| Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. | 5. |
|---|----|

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

- A. Proceeding under section 28 of the Housing Town Planning etc, Act 1919.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which

is important to be maintained in the hands of the owner to effect proper
control.
The owner of the property is responsible for the maintenance of the
property and the owner is responsible for the maintenance of the property.
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is responsible for the maintenance of the property.
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is responsible for the maintenance of the property.

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Notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil.
2. Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit.	
(a) by owners.	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil.
3. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close.	Nil.
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	2.
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied.	
(a) by owners.	2.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil.
C. Proceedings under section 17 & 18 of the Housing Town Planning etc Act 1909.	
1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	3.
2. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	3.
3. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit.	Nil.
4. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	Nil.
5. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil.

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1. Number of registrations made with a view to

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Small green crested flycatcher

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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES & MILK SHOPS.

There has been little improvement during the last year in the cleanliness of Cowsheds and Dairies. These have been inspected, and instructions as to washing and cleaning in other directions issued, on the whole are not ignored, but a higher standard of cleanliness in every way should prevail on these farms. Little has been done in the way of rebuilding or re-construction of any premises. No cowsheds have been erected during the year, and no Graded milk has yet been supplied within the district.

There are no milk shops, and most of the milk produced is sent to factories for the making of dried milk, but a certain proportion is sent to London.

On inspecting Cowsheds & Farms, it has been noticed that the Yards themselves are in many cases quite well designed for natural drainage, and yet by the accumulation of manure are rendered wet and dirty. In very many farms too much manure is stacked in close proximity to the stalls, and is not sufficiently often removed. In many of the farms there should be more systematic removal of manure, and if manure heaps are required, these should be at a greater distance from the yards and stalls. Such removal would have a tendency to improve the surface of the yards themselves.

STALLS.

There are still cases where the custom of shovelling the manure through the windows of the cow stalls instead of wheeling it out through the doors prevails. This custom makes it difficult to maintain the necessary cleanliness of the walls.

The condition of the floors of the stalls themselves have a tendency of late years to improve.

ROOF.

Some of the roofs have been found extremely dirty with cobwebs, there being in some farms a quaint belief that such conditions reduce the number of flies.

THE STATE OF THE MILK INDUSTRY IN 1911

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On inspecting Cowsheds & Dairies, it has been noticed that the yards themselves are in many cases quite well designed for natural drainage, and yet by the accumulation of manure are rendered very dirty. In very many farms too much manure is stacked in close proximity to the stalls, and is not sufficiently often removed. In many of the farms there should be more systematic removal of manure, and if manure heaps are required, these should be at a greater distance from the yards and stalls. Such removal would have a tendency to improve the surface of the yards themselves.

STALLS

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The condition of the floors of the stalls themselves have a tendency of late years to improve.

FLOORS

Some of the floors have been found extremely dirty with manure, there being in some farms a general belief that such conditions reduce the number of flies.

MILKING.

Though at Milking Time practically all milkers now wash their hands before commencing, in some instances the Cows themselves are insufficiently clean before milking, thus the hands of the milkers at the end of a series of cows are not sufficiently clean, and the state of the milk must inevitably suffer.

The ventilation of the stalls in most cases is satisfactory.

In most of the Dairies, cooling sheds are not used as the milk is taken straight from the cows to the milk factory.

MEAT.

There are Three Registered and One Licensed Slaughter-houses in the district, but no slaughtering has taken place in two of the houses, and at the remaining two only occasional slaughtering of pigs is undertaken; notices of intention to slaughter are forwarded to the Meat Inspector and inspections of carcasses are made.

Condemned meat unfit for human consumption, and occasionally whole carcasses are destroyed under the supervision of the Police Authority as applied to the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

	<u>In 1920.</u>	<u>In January 1925.</u>	<u>In Decr.1925</u>
Registered	-	-	-
Licensed	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

There have only been three cases of infectious diseases during the past year, viz:- one case of Scarlet Fever and two cases of Diphtheria.

The case of Scarlet Fever occurred on a farm, but was promptly isolated with a special nurse, and was visited several times

RESULTS

Through its various branches, the Department has been able to secure information regarding the health of the population in various parts of the country. In some instances the data obtained are of a general nature, while in others they are more specific. The results of the various surveys are as follows:

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RESULTS

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Consumption of milk for human consumption, and occasionally for other purposes, is controlled under the supervision of the local health officer as applied to the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

REGISTRATION

<u>IN 1926.</u>		<u>IN JANUARY 1925.</u>		<u>IN DECEMBER 1924.</u>	
Registered	-	-	-	-	-
Licensed	1	-	2	-	2
Total	1	-	2	-	2

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER

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The case of scarlet fever occurred on a farm, and was isolated with a special nurse, and was visited several times.

to ensure that no contact between the patient and her attendants and those dealing with milk was possible. There were no further cases.

The two cases of Diphtheria occurred in one family which was isolated. The family was isolated, while the two patients themselves were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied gratis in exceptional cases by the Council, and is invariably promptly used.

There have been no cases of encephalitis lethargica during the past year, and no fresh cases of malaria, dysentery or trench fever have been reported.

The County Council examine pathological and bacteriological specimens sent to them. Use has been freely made of these facilities when needed.

No use has been made of either the Schick or Dick tests.

No primary or other vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Preventions Regulations 1917.

The intimations from Schools of infectious diseases in the district are utilized and those in contact with children infected are visited and warned.

There was a mild epidemic of influenza, practically no mortality and no special enquiry was undertaken in connection with the epidemic.

In all cases in which it is found wise to disinfect and cleanse premises, this has been done by the Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action has been necessary under this heading.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No action has been necessary under this heading.

It would be a mistake to assume that the patient and her attendants
and family were isolated from the community. There were no further

The case of Diphtheria occurred in one family which
was isolated. The family was isolated, while the two patients
remained in the community.

It is well known that the disease is spread in exceptional
cases by the throat, and is invariably properly used.
There have been no cases of diphtheria in the community during
the past year, and no fresh cases of diphtheria, diphtheria or scarlet
fever have been reported.

The health journal examines pathological and bacteriological
specimens sent to them. The has been freely made of these facilities
and reports.

As has been made of either the health or sick leave.
No primary or other vaccinations have been performed by the
Health Officer of Health under the provisions regulations 1914.
The information from reports of infectious diseases in the
community are utilized and these in connection with children infected are
utilized and reported.

There was a mild epidemic of influenza, particularly in
the community and no special enquiry was undertaken in connection with
the influenza.

In all cases in which it is found wise to disinfect and
disinfect premises, this has been done by the Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

No action has been necessary under this heading.

Public Health Act, 1914, Section 26

No action has been necessary under this heading.

DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

County Offices,

Dorchester.

ADMINISTRATION OF SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT.

Year ended 31st. December 1925.

Dear Sir,

The following is a statement of the Samples taken in your District during the past year:-

<u>SAMPLE.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>If adulterated.</u>
Baking Powder	1	-
Castor Oil	1	-
Ground Ginger	1	-
Jam	2	(1) Yes
Lard	1	-
Milk	2	-
Tinned Salmon	1	-
Vinegar	1	-

Adulterated Sample.

Jam (Raspberry)

Action Taken.

Prosecution. Dismissed
on payment of costs.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J. ELLIOTT ROBINSON,

County Medical Officer.

To. The Medical Officer of Health,

Rural District,

SHERBORNE.

DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

County Offices,
Dorchester.

ADMINISTRATION OF SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT.

Year ended 31st December 1935.

Dear Sir,

The following is a statement of the samples taken in your District during the past year:-

<u>SAMPLE.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>If adulterated.</u>
Baking Powder	1	-
Castor Oil	1	-
Ground Ginger	1	-
Jam	2	(1) Yes
Lard	1	-
Milk	2	-
Tinned Salmon	1	-
Vinegar	1	-

Adulterated Sample.

Jam (Raspberry)

Action Taken.

Prosecution. Dismissed
on payment of costs.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) J. ELLIOTT ROBINSON,
County Medical Officer.

To: The Medical Officer of Health,

Rural District,

SHERBORNE.

